

## **Historic, Archive Document**

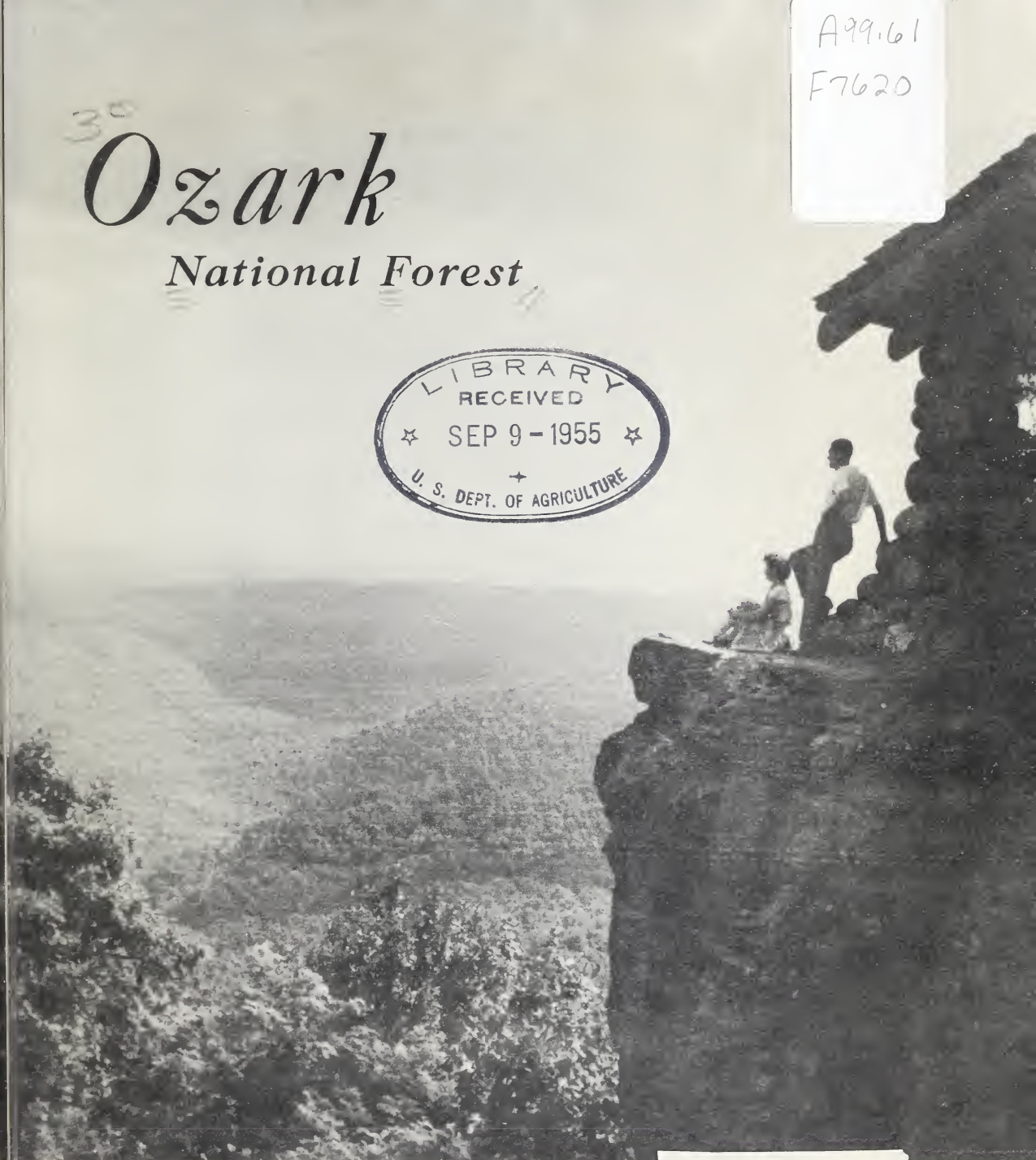
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# Ozark

National Forest



U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
FOREST SERVICE

Southern Region

50  
1955



OZARK NATIONAL FOREST is yours for the taking, and provides income and other benefits for all the people. The forest is managed for the protection of watersheds, the growing of timber, and the development of all resources. This policy of multiple use includes recreation as an important activity. More and more people are seeking recreational opportunities such as this national forest can provide. This demand has risen sharply in the past decade, until more than a third of a million visitors enjoy outdoor recreation each year on the Ozark Forest.

Created by proclamation of President Theodore Roosevelt, March 6, 1908, your Ozark National Forest has, through the intervening years, become a great and valuable property. It consists of more than 1 million acres of forest land, with the roads, telephone lines, lookout towers, buildings, equipment, and other facilities needed for the protection and development of the forest resources. The forest, located in northwest Arkansas, is in four blocks or divisions: The Main, Boston Mountain, and Sylamore Divisions north of the Arkansas River and extending eastward to the Oklahoma State line, and the Magazine Mountain District south of the Arkansas River and west of Dardanelle. The forest is administered from the Supervisor's headquarters at Russellville, and Ranger offices at Hector, Clarksville, Ozark, Jasper, Paris, and Mountain View.

The Ozark is one of 2 national forests in Arkansas, 11 in the 11-State Southern Region, and about 160 in the Nation, comprising 181 million acres, administered by the Forest Service of the United States Department of Agriculture. The broad, overall objective of management of these national forests is to contribute by the greatest good to the greatest number of people in the long run.

The Central Ozark Branch of the Southern Forest Experiment Station, with headquarters at Harrison, conducts research

programs on national forest land. There are 2 experimental forests, the Henry R. Roen, 4 miles north of Jasper on Arkansas 7, and the Sylamore, located on the Sylamore Ranger District.

In addition to the more important forest resources, water, wood, wildlife, and recreation, minor ones such as forage are developed where practical. In 1953, more than 2,500 head of livestock were grazing on the forest under permit.

## Water

The forested watersheds of the Ozark National Forest exercise a highly beneficial influence on the flow of many important streams. The White River has its beginning in the forest, together with several of its important tributaries. In addition, several streams tributary to the Arkansas lie largely within the forest.

Watershed protection is one of the primary purposes of the Ozark Forest, accomplished by maintaining a good vegetative cover, mainly trees, to hold soil, increase its water-binding capacity, retard runoff, and release water gradually into streams. Good forest management, protection of the forest from fire, and good engineering, such as in road construction, are the main working practices to meet this objective.

The Ozark region is subject to sudden and heavy downpours, sometimes amounting to as much as 7 inches in 21 hours. Thus, good conditions of ground cover and forest floor are highly important to reduce the water runoff during such storms. Regulated flow in forest streams not only lessens floods, but insures a more reliable supply of clear, pure water for domestic, industrial, and recreational use. In effect, the forest acts as a gigantic sponge, gathering water, holding it temporarily, and gradually releasing it to forest streams. Fort Smith, Paris, Russellville, and other centers are dependent on the forest streams for their water supply.

## Timber

The principal timber trees on the Ozark Forest are the shortleaf pine and the white oak, with considerable amounts of red oak and black oak and other associated species. The forest now contains over a billion board-feet of merchantable timber of all species.

Although pine now exceeds white oak in volume, the Ozark has long been known as "The Land of the White Oak" because of the extent, quality, and high value of this species. It is the basis of an important industry: the manufacture of white oak staves for tight barrels. Timber from the forest also contributes to a large furniture industry centered at Fort Smith. Other products include lumber, pulpwood, hand-dows, posts, poles, railroad ties.

The present annual cut of from 20 to 25 million board-feet of green timber is less than the annual growth on the entire forest. This leaves a margin of volume to build up depleted timber stands. Income from the sale of forest products has averaged \$357,000 a year over the past 5 years, and, like all other national-forest receipts, is paid into the U. S. Treasury. Twenty-five percent of the total receipts is returned to the State for the counties in which the forest is located, for road and school purposes.

National-forest timber is sold via the stump-to-private individuals and companies for cutting and manufacture. Trees to be cut are marked under the supervision of professional foresters. Sales range in size from a few trees to several million feet. All sales over \$2,000 are advertised and sold to the highest bidder. This procedure gives all prospective purchasers an equal opportunity and assures a fair price for the products sold.

## Fire Protection

In order to grow successive crops of quality sawtimber in the shortest time and to preserve watershed, recreation, and wildlife values, intensive fire protection is given

the 1 million acres of national-forest land within the forest boundaries. Protection is also given to approximately 15,000 acres of private land within the forest boundary in an effort to keep fires from spreading from one to national-forest land.

Each ranger district has its own fire organization, tools, and supplies. From two to five lookouts and a dispatcher are employed during the fire season on each district. Trained volunteer crews are used for fire suppression. Swift, safe communication in the form of telephone and radio enables lookouts to report fires detected when they are small. Good roads allow fire trucks and crews to reach fires promptly in nearly all parts of the forest. Prompt suppression action helps hold down the acreage burned.

In the early days of the forest, large fires burned almost continually. As late as 1923, 25,000 acres burned. Since then, considerable progress has been made, the current annual burn being less than one-tenth of 1 percent of the area protected.

In spite of the advances made, more than 90 percent of the fires on the Ozark are man-caused. Constant vigilance and prompt suppression can hold down acreage burned, but until everyone exercises proper care in handling fire in wooded areas, the threat of a large fire is always present. The Forest Service seeks the friendly cooperation of every resident and every visitor, as a means of preventing fire and fire costs and losses.

## Wildlife

Wildlife is an important resource of the forest. Provision is made for wildlife management under a cooperative agreement between the Arkansas Game and Fish Commission and the Forest Service. In this joint effort the Forest Service is concerned with the management of the land and maintenance of a suitable environment for all kinds of wildlife, and the State is responsible for the protection and harvesting of the game crop. Wildlife management considerations include direct habitat

improvement as well as correlation with timber, grazing, recreation, and other land-use activities. The objective is to manage the habitat so that wildlife populations will be encouraged at levels consistent with the requirements for other services of the land.

Five Federal Game Refuges were established in 1925-26 and closed to all hunting. The original stock of approximately 125 whitetail deer has multiplied into a herd estimated to be 17,000 head on the entire forest. There are about 300 head of elk, a few bear, and numerous other small game animals. Hunting is permitted under State game laws throughout the forest and may also be permitted on the Federal refuges. Some 10,000 persons enjoy hunting on the forest each year.

The forest contains many fine fishing streams, including the White River and Buffalo River, long famous for "float trips." Other good streams are Mulberry River, North and South Sylamore Creeks, Illinois Bayou, Richland, and Big and Little Pines Creeks. In all, there are about 180 names of fishing streams on the Ozark Forest. More than 30,000 people fish these areas annually.

Information on hunting and fishing may be obtained from the office of the Forest Supervisor or Forest Ranger, or from the State Fish and Game Commission.

## Recreation

The Ozark region is popular with vacationists. The mountain scenery, winding forest drives, mountain streams, and pleasant summer climate attract thousands of visitors. Its historical associations interest many. The rural simplicity of the countryside and leisurely pace of its small towns lure many from the crowded centers of modern civilization to seek here a bit of peace and quiet. The forest is especially attractive when the flowering shrubs are at their best, April 1 to 15 for redbud and April 15 to May 1 for dogwood, and when the autumn foliage takes on its gorgeous colors beginning about October 15.

The Ozark National Forest has a number of recreation areas available for the use of those seeking outdoor enjoyment.

### Major Recreation Areas

**Magazine Mountain**—50 miles east of Fort Smith and 19 miles south of Paris, via Arkansas 22 and Forest Service hard-surfaced road. Located on rim of 2,800-foot Magazine Mountain is a lodge and 18 rental cabins operated by Paris Corporation under permit. All buildings of rustic frame and stone construction, and most conveniences. Wide panoramic views of surrounding mountains and valleys. Public picnic and camping areas located along north rim and at east and west ends of Magazine Mountain. Swimming at Cove Lake, 10 miles north.

**Cove Lake**—miles southeast of Paris via Forest Service hard-surfaced road, 166-acre artificial lake in mountain setting. Picnicking, swimming, boating, and fishing.

**Spring Lake**—17 miles west of Dardanelle via Arkansas 27 and Forest Service road. 82-acre artificial lake in mountain setting. Picnicking, camping, swimming, boating, and fishing.

**White Rock**—40 miles northeast of Fort Smith via U. S. 51 and Forest Service road. On high, tabletop mountain in rugged, isolated section. Four rental cabins and concession building of rustic timber and stone construction. Lookout tower, picnic area, trails, and overlook shelters.

**Blanchard Springs**—15 miles northwest of Mountain View via Arkansas 9 and 14 and Forest Service road. Huge spring flows 1,265 gallons of crystal-clear water per minute from mouth of cave. Scenic drive and trails, swimming, camping, fishing, hiking. Rental cabins, cafe, and other resort facilities operated by concessioner. Called Land of the Cross Bow.

### Minor Recreation Areas

**Barbedock Forest Camp**—22 miles northwest of Mountain View via Arkansas 9 and Forest Service roads. Camping, picnicking, and swimming.

**Bayou Bluff**—3 miles northeast of Hector on Fork Mountain road. Camping, picnicking, wading, and fishing.

**Long Pool**—14 miles north of Dover. Undeveloped, but excellent swimming in Big Piney Creek. Good campsites.

**Gray's Forest Camp**—23 miles northwest of Ozark via Arkansas 23. Picnic tables, shelters, and overlooks rugged canyon.

**Lee Creek**—In Lee Creek, Crawford County. Picnicking, swimming, fishing.

**City Rock Bluff Scenic Area**—On south bank of White River, opposite town of Calico Rock. Varied and brilliant colors in limestone rock bluff resembling calico pattern. No facilities.

**Cherry Bend**—About 5 miles north of Cass on Arkansas 23. Excellent roadside picnic and camping area.

## Scenic Roads

The Ozark National Forest is readily accessible from all directions by U. S. and State highways. Forest Service roads lead from these main highways deep into the back country. Interesting trips may be made from any of the cities and towns in and near the forest. From Russellville several scenic loop-trips may be taken through the forest to points of interest. Forest officers will gladly help plan trips to accord with the time at the visitor's disposal. Listed below are some of the scenic drives. One of the pleasures of the motorist is the discovery for himself of drives and scenic spots not mentioned here. There are many.

**Arkansas 7**, from Russellville to Jasper and Harrison, takes the motorist through the picturesque scenery of this section.

**Falling Water Road**, on Falling Water Creek, reached via Arkansas 16, 3 miles south of Ben Hur, affords a beautiful excursion for those who like primitive country off the beaten path.

**Arkansas 7 south** from Russellville, crosses the Arkansas River into the old town of Dardanelle, one of the first settlements in the Arkansas Valley. Here stands

the famous Council Oak, where the Cherokee chief, Black Fox, signed the treaty giving to the Government all Indian lands south of the Arkansas River.

**Arkansas 9**, northward from Mountain View, Arkansas 5, south of Calico Rock; and Arkansas 14 and 27, east of Marshall, connected with Forest Service roads that lead to Blanchard Springs, Barbedock Forest Camp, and the famous White and Buffalo Rivers country.

**Arkansas 25 and 124**, north from Clarksville, connect with Forest Service roads that lead to the rugged scenic areas of Caecot Tower, Devils Knob Tower, and the picturesque course of Big Piney Creek. **Magazine Mountain Road**, Paris to Haytown via Magazine Lodge.

**Arkansas 59** and forest roads to Lee Creek and Devils Den State Park.

**Arkansas 24**, northward from Ozark, and connecting forest roads offer a scenic excursion to Forest Service camps and the White-Rock recreation developments.

**Mountain Crest and Fly Gap** roads are important forest arteries, running westward from Arkansas 23 to U. S. 51 at Winslow.

**U. S. 51**, from Fort Smith to Fayetteville, is one of the most scenic drives in the Ozarks. This fine highway crosses the base of the lowlands soon after it turns north from the Arkansas River Valley and follows the crest of the high country. It affords a thrilling view of a vast section of the Ozark National Forest. Visible from one point are four lookout towers. White Rock dominates the landscape, the magnificent sweep of mountains and canyons.

## Sources of Information

The Forest Supervisor, Forest Rangers or any member of the Ozark National Forest organization are pleased to be of service to forest visitors. Call on them for their advice or assistance as you may need. They are located in Arkansas as follows: Forest Supervisor at Russellville; Forest Rangers at Hector, Clarksville, Ozark, Jasper, Paris, and Mountain View.





*Cool shade and the sparkling waters of Spring Lake attract many a visitor.*



*Picnicking in the national forest can be enjoyed by everyone in the family.*



*High-grade white oak—prime material for fine furniture and other quality products.*



*Mulberry Creek, one of the many streams that provide pleasure for the angler.*



*Forests protect the watersheds that provide good water for dependent communities. This reservoir serves Fort Smith.*



*A million posts a year for the western plains.*



*Mt. Magazin Lodge and its terrace overlook the beautiful Ozark country.*



*The Ozark, like other forests, is a home for wildlife.*



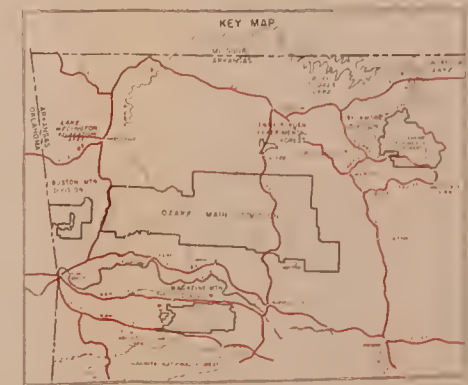
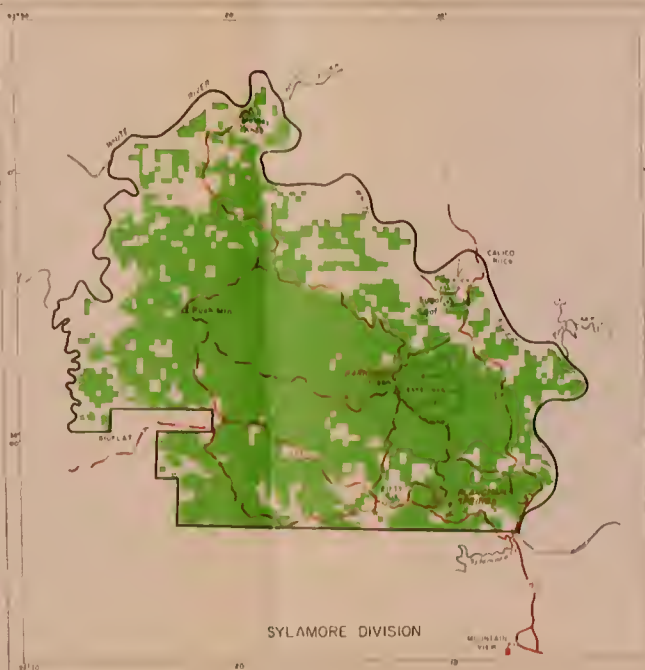
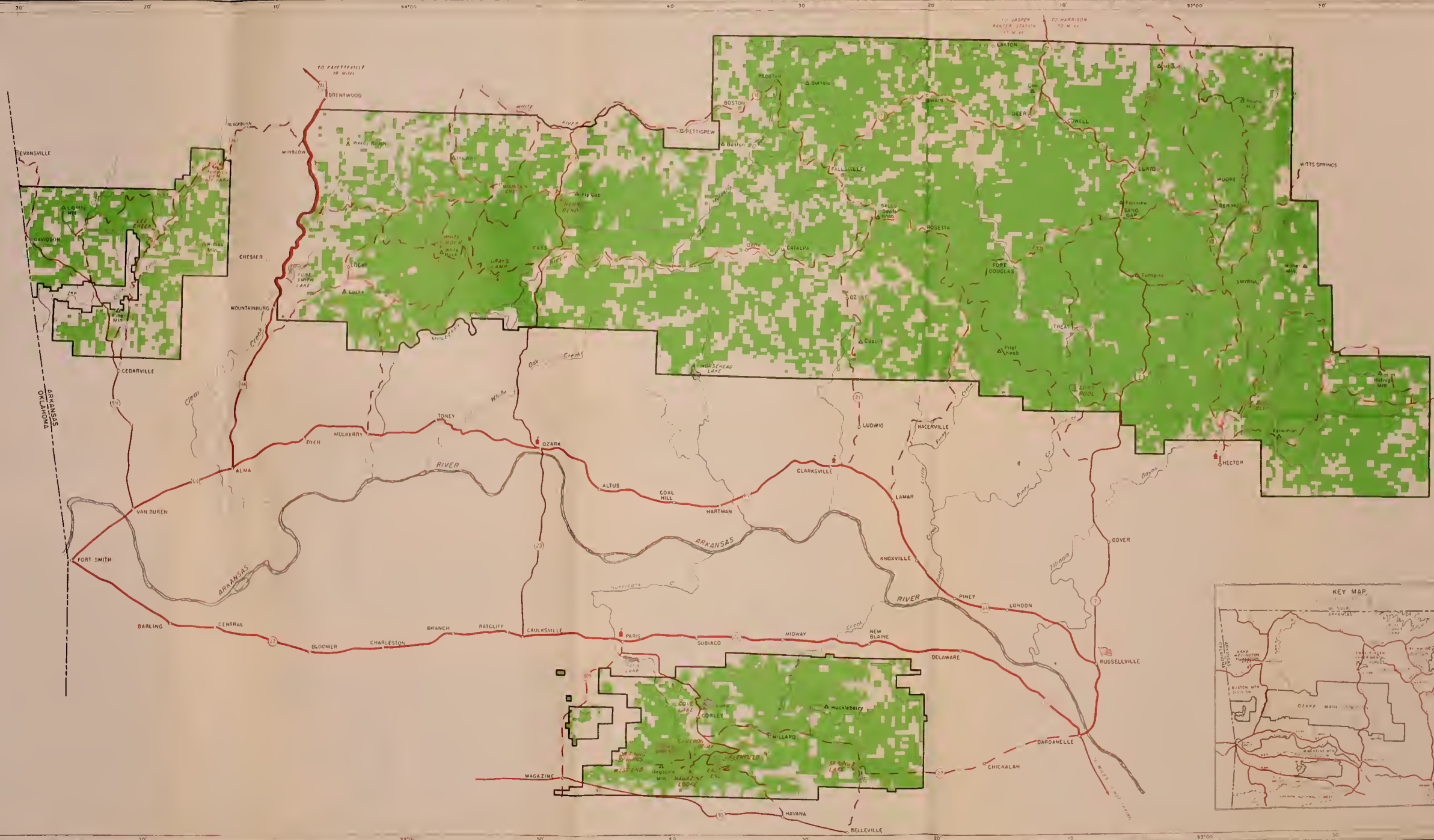
*DAR memorial plantation—trees for the future.*



*The well-managed forest insures a continual supply of wood for industry.*







**OZARK NATIONAL FOREST  
ARKANSAS**

- 1954  
LEGEND
- |   |   |   |                                |
|---|---|---|--------------------------------|
| — | U.S. HIGHWAYS                             | — | STATE HIGHWAYS                 |
| ▲ | PERMANENT LIGHT STATION                   | — | DISTRICT HANDBOOK HEADQUARTERS |
| — | MAIN MOTOR HIGHWAYS                       | — | GAME WARDEN STATION            |
| — | MAIN MOTOR ROAD                           | — | RECREATION AREA                |
| — | SECONDARY MOTOR ROADS                     | — | PICNIC AREA                    |
| — | LOW STANDARD MOTORWAY (LOCAL MOTOR ROADS) | — | SCENIC POINT                   |
| — | LARGE PARK                                | — | NATIONAL FOREST LAND           |
|   |   | — | ACQUITTANCE BEING ACQUIRED     |
- FOREST & PARKS OFFICE AT RUSSELLVILLE, ARKANSAS
- 0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 Miles





*Lookout on the watch for the first wisp of smoke.*